



# **PRESS NOTICE**

## **BILL NETTLES**

### **UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

### **DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#### **PICKENS WOMAN SENTENCED IN GOVERNMENT BENEFITS SCAM**

**Columbia, South Carolina----** United States Attorney Bill Nettles stated today that Megan Nichole Hanson Mosteller, age 26, of Pickens, South Carolina, was sentenced in federal court in Florence, South Carolina, for theft of government funds, a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 641. United States District Judge Terry L. Wooten of Florence sentenced Mosteller to 15 months imprisonment, three years supervised release and ordered her to pay restitution in the amount of \$32,718.15.

The Government presented evidence during the trial to establish that Mosteller married a Marine, named Jeremy Mosteller, but separated from him a few months later. On March 7, 2008, approximately three months after the separation, Jeremy Mosteller died. Three days after his death, Megan Mosteller filed for Department of Veteran's Affairs Survivor Benefits claiming to have continuously lived with Jeremy Mosteller until his death. Five months after Jeremy's death, Megan Mosteller married David Redding, Jr. and purchased a house in Easley. After the marriage, Megan Mosteller continued using the

name "Mosteller" to hide the fact that she had re-married and continued to collect VA benefits. In addition, she applied for, and received, Education Benefits from the Department of Veteran's Affairs. Two and a half years after Mosteller began receiving VA benefits, she was reported and an investigation revealed her fraud, at which time the benefits were stopped. By the time the benefits had stopped, Mosteller has received over \$37,000.00 but would have received over \$800,000.00 if her fraud had not been detected.

The case was investigated by agents of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Assistant United States Attorney William E. Day, II of the Florence office handled the case.

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